

Violence against women is not just a humanitarian tragedy; it is a global health menace and a threat to national security. The United States can play a significant role in protecting the human rights of all women and ending the violence against our sisters around the world.

COMMEMORATING DECEMBER 7

(Mr. CARNEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CARNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate two very important events in our Nation's history that occurred on December 7. As we know, today is National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day. We pray for the more than 3,500 U.S. soldiers and civilians who were killed or wounded in defense of our Nation that day. The sacrifices they made 70 years ago are not unlike the sacrifices that our soldiers and their families are being asked to make today.

December 7 is also an important milestone for the founding of our Nation. Today is Delaware Day, the 224th anniversary of Delaware's ratification of the United States Constitution, making Delaware the first State to join the Nation.

Delaware's Founding Fathers saw the vision and genius of the form of government laid out in our Constitution. It is this vision and this document that continues to guide everything we do today.

So let us take time today to remember the contributions every generation has made to protect the values and freedoms upon which this great Nation was founded.

THE SEINFELD CONGRESS

(Mr. DOYLE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DOYLE. Madam Speaker, the last time the Republicans controlled the House back in 2006, a newspaper columnist called it "the Seinfeld Congress," because like Seinfeld, which was a show about nothing, the 109th Congress was a Congress about nothing. Absolutely nothing got done.

Now the House Republicans have upped the ante. They have an agenda filled with Seinfeld legislation—a bunch of bills about nothing. Tomorrow, for example, we're considering the so-called farm dust bill. Now, ignore for a moment the fact that it's more about mines and smelters and concrete plants than it is about farms, House Republicans want to ban an EPA rule that the EPA administrator has said she has no intention of issuing.

Why are we wasting time prohibiting a rule that's not being issued when we've got real problems like a struggling economy and millions of people out of work.

As Seinfeld might say, yada, yada, yada.

HONORING TRINITY SHAMROCKS

(Mr. YARMUTH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. YARMUTH. Madam Speaker, with an average margin of victory of more than 40 points, an undefeated season, and a win in the State championship that Sports Illustrated called the team's "finest offensive performance of the year," there can be no more debate: Trinity High School Shamrocks is the best high school football team in the country.

Friday's 62-21 victory over Scott County in the 6A final completed a 25-game win streak, secured a second straight State title, and capped a season in which Trinity didn't just beat the competition, they rocked them.

Over five playoff games, Trinity outscored its foes by more than 240 total points. They never trailed in the second half all season. They crushed top-tier out-of-state competition and avenged their only 2010 loss. After facing Trinity, Scott County's coach called the Shamrocks "the best team in Kentucky football history."

This was a true team effort, and thanks to the leadership and dedication of 40 seniors, these student athletes have achieved a perfect record and deserve to bring a national title home to Louisville. I ask my colleagues to join me today in congratulating Coach Beatty, the team, and the entire Trinity community on an incredible championship and an amazing 2011 season. Way to go Rocks.

EXTEND PAYROLL TAX CUT AND EMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE

(Mr. CICILLINE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CICILLINE. Madam Speaker, we simply cannot leave Washington before extending the payroll tax cut and unemployment assistance. With our economy still struggling and unemployment remaining unacceptably high at 10.4 percent in my home State of Rhode Island, now is not the time to take more money out of the pockets of hard-working families.

Allowing the payroll tax cuts to expire at the end of this month will mean less money in the pockets of 600,000 hardworking Rhode Islanders. It is absolutely critical that we extend the payroll tax cut which is saving working families an average of \$1,000 per year and would add \$400 million to Rhode Island's economy next year. We have to do everything we can to strengthen our middle class families who are struggling to make ends meet and provide assistance to those families who need it most.

If Congress does not extend emergency unemployment assistance, thousands of Rhode Islanders, as well as

millions of Americans who rely on this critical safety net, will lose their assistance. This will have a devastating impact on these families and on our economy.

Rather than providing subsidies to Big Oil companies and arguing for more tax cuts for millionaires and billionaires, it's time for Congress to stand up for American families and to extend the payroll tax cut and unemployment compensation.

EXTEND PAYROLL TAX CUT

(Ms. MCCOLLUM asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Madam Speaker, the temporary payroll tax cut is putting money into the economy and the pockets of 160 million Americans. And now my Republican colleagues are demanding harmful cuts to working families and seniors to offset these middle class tax cuts.

A better idea is to cut from the \$1 trillion in special interest tax earmarks identified by the bipartisan Simpson-Bowles Commission. Let's cut the \$2 million earmark for wooden arrow manufacturers. Let's cut the \$40 million earmark for the owners of NASCAR racetracks. And let's cut \$235 million in earmarks for rum producers in Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. The earmarks are unfair and unaffordable.

To the 99 percent of Americans who don't have a lobbyist, sorry, you missed out on the special interest bonanza. Congress needs to protect working families. Let's pass President Obama's middle class payroll tax cut and help our families and our economy now.

SUPPORT REINS ACT

(Mr. YODER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. YODER. Madam Speaker, the American economy is crying out for certainty. Every day the instability created by new Washington rules, regulations, new taxes, et cetera makes it harder for the economy to recover and harder for small businesses to create jobs.

That's why today I stand in full support of the Regulations from the Executive in Need of Scrutiny Act, known as the REINS Act.

As our Federal agencies churn out regulations by the truckload, it's our small businesses, those very entities that we expect to create jobs and are struggling to survive, that are burdened with implementing them. In fact, regulations cost the economy \$1.75 trillion per year. New regulations this year alone will cost business over \$60 billion, all driving up the cost of doing business and putting more people out of work.

I'm supporting the REINS Act because this legislation will provide

Americans with an additional level of accountability when it comes to job-killing regulations from government agencies.

Madam Speaker, it's time we stand up for small business owners, and it's time we do all that we can to remove the barriers Washington is putting in their way. Let's come together as a Congress and help get America back to work again.

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OPPOSITION TO THE REINS ACT

(Mrs. CAPPS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. CAPPS. Madam Speaker, later today the House will vote on the REINS Act. This is a terrible piece of legislation that will make it next to impossible to protect Americans' health or the environment. It would allow either Chamber of Congress to stop efforts to keep our water and air clean or to protect the public from unsafe food—by simply doing nothing.

This bill sets up a congressional approval requirement that is a recipe for more gridlock. It would mean more bureaucracy and more delay, generating uncertainty for businesses and weaker rules to protect consumers.

Sherwood Boehlert, the former Republican chairman of the House Science Committee and one of our most thoughtful former colleagues, recently wrote a scathing piece in *The Hill* about the REINS Act. He said the bill would result in "a virtual shutdown of the system that will leave the public exposed."

Madam Speaker, the REINS Act is an outrageous effort to throw out a system that has protected American families and communities for more than 100 years. I urge my colleagues to join me in voting down this irresponsible and misguided legislation.

VOTER SUPPRESSION

(Mr. PETERS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PETERS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to oppose nationwide efforts to suppress voter turnout for the 2012 election, including State legislation imposing strict photo ID requirements. These new regulations would disproportionately burden seniors, people with disabilities, the poor, and minorities.

In Michigan, we have seen aggressive purges of voter rules, which can disenfranchise low-income voters who have moved to a new address. Half a million Michiganders don't have a driver's license or State ID. How are they supposed to make their voices heard if these rules are passed?

Let's be clear. These efforts are about one thing and one thing only: silencing voters.

America is a beacon of democracy, and to limit voter access is hypo-

critical and wrong. Madam Speaker, I don't have to tell you about the shameful times in America's history where power and intimidation were used to prevent Americans from voting. We must learn from our past.

Fight voter suppression efforts in the courts, in State legislatures, here in Washington, and, most importantly, on election day.

REMEMBERING PEARL HARBOR

(Ms. HANABUSA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. HANABUSA. December 7, 1941, "a date which will live in infamy," are the words of President Roosevelt.

I represent Pearl Harbor. On this day, let us not forget the brave people who gave their lives at Pearl Harbor. On this day, let us not forget this act of unprovoked, dastardly aggression which propelled us into a war. On this day, let us not forget how the people of this Nation were unmatched in their evidence of loyalty and patriotism.

Let us remember because we need to be that people again to continue our fight to maintain our position as the greatest Nation in the world. Let us remember because we need to show the compassion to those who are in need in these days.

MOTION TO INSTRUCT CONFEREES ON H.R. 2055, MILITARY CONSTRUCTION AND VETERANS AFFAIRS AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2012

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker's table the bill (H.R. 2055) making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2012, and for other purposes, with a Senate amendment thereto, disagree to the Senate amendment, and agree to the conference requested by the Senate.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Kentucky?

There was no objection.

Mr. DICKS. Madam Speaker, I have a motion to instruct at the desk.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the motion.

The Clerk read as follows:

Mr. Dicks moves that the managers on the part of the House at the conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the Senate amendment to the bill, H.R. 2055, be instructed to recede to the Senate on the higher level of funding for the "Department of Veterans Affairs—Medical and Prosthetic Research" account.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XXII, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. DICKS) and the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. ROGERS) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Washington.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. DICKS. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks on the motion to instruct.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Washington?

There was no objection.

Mr. DICKS. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

The motion instructs conferees to provide the highest level of funding for medical and prosthetic research. This program helps the Department of Veterans Affairs develop cutting-edge treatments for veterans and their families. It is fully integrated throughout the medical community through partnerships with academic affiliates, nonprofits, and commercial entities, as well as other Federal agencies. It is unique because both the clinical care and research occur together.

The Medical and Prosthetic Research Program plays a vital role in advancing the health and care of our Nation's veterans. Some of the areas that the Medical and Prosthetic Research Program focus on include mental health research, prosthetics, traumatic brain injury, and posttraumatic stress disorder, or PTSD. The program has emphasized efforts to improve the understanding and treatment of veterans in need of mental health care.

We hear a lot about the casualties of war and soldiers who have sacrificed their lives in duty. However, over the past few years, the VA has begun to examine the psychological wounds of posttraumatic stress disorder. The motion will provide funding for the VA to care for veterans returning home from Iraq and Afghanistan who may suffer from depression, anxiety, and substance abuse.

Funding for medical and prosthetic research in the House-reported bill was inadequate, and during floor consideration the House majority agreed to increase funding by \$22 million. While I was pleased to see this increase, I believe we need to do more.

The Senate-passed bill funds this program at the FY2011 enacted level, which is \$51 million higher than the House-passed level. I believe the higher funding levels should be maintained because of the impact this research can have on the everyday life of our Nation's veterans.

This Nation must get its fiscal house in order. However, even in an austere budget, we need to make room to fully fund our priorities. The Medical and Prosthetic Research Program is a high priority.

I'm sure that all of my colleagues would agree we can never repay America's veterans for the sacrifice they have made for our country. As a first installment, we should make a substantial investment in health care research for our veterans, and I urge a "yes" vote on the motion to instruct.

I reserve the balance of my time.